



June 25, 1999

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Jack Valentino, Chairperson
Big Valley Rancheria
P.O. Box 430
Lakeport, CA 95453

Cover # 5

Dear Chairperson Valentino:

As another step in our effort to consult on a government-to-government basis with your tribe, we have enclosed a copy of the Executive Summary for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and a copy of the Revised Phase II Report, a concise explanation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, its purpose, and the process by which we propose to proceed with the Program. The Revised Phase II Report is an appendix to the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. Also included, in compact disk format, is a copy of the full Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort by 15 state and federal agencies with regulatory and management responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin River Bay-Delta ecosystem. Its purpose is to develop a long-term plan to restore ecosystem health and improve water management of the Bay-Delta system. The objective of this collaborative planning process is to identify comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta levee and channel integrity.

This Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is a joint product of the efforts of each of the CALFED participating agencies, and represents a major step in the process toward collectively achieving CALFED's objectives. It identifies a Preferred Program Alternative to achieve these objectives, and evaluates the environmental impacts of proceeding with this plan. It also analyzes the environmental impacts of each of three alternatives, and compares the Preferred Program Alternative to the other alternatives. Each of the alternatives includes the core programs which address issues of ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, water quality, Delta levee and channel integrity, water transfers, and watershed management coordination, as well as a range of storage and conveyance options.

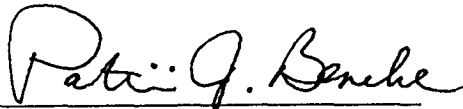
The primary purpose of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is to inform decision-makers and the public about the impacts the various alternatives could have on both the human and the natural environment and to evaluate how well the alternatives meet the Program purposes. Because the Program is a long-term plan for the Bay-Delta ecosystem, the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is a programmatic level planning document focusing on the

CALFED Agencies

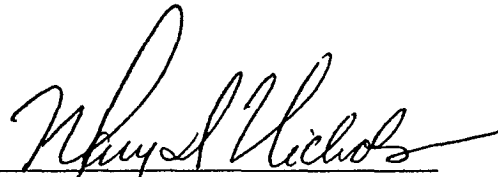
California	The Resources Agency	Federal	Environmental Protection Agency	Department of Agriculture
	Department of Fish and Game		Department of the Interior	
	Department of Water Resources		Fish and Wildlife Service	
	California Environmental Protection Agency		Bureau of Reclamation	
	State Water Resources Control Board		U.S. Geological Survey	
	Department of Food and Agriculture		Bureau of Land Management	National Marine Fisheries Service
			U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Western Area Power Administration

interrelated long-term and cumulative consequences of the various alternatives. Subsequent environmental review for the project-specific actions involved in implementation of the Program will follow the approval of the final EIS/EIR.

We encourage you to share with us your comments and suggestions on the Revised Phase II Report, the Executive Summary, and the rest of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. Enclosed with this letter is a list of the libraries where the complete Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is available. If you wish another copy of the complete Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR (compact disk or printed format) or a list of Public Hearing locations, please contact the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155, Sacramento, CA 95814; Attention: Rick Breitenbach, or call (800) 900-3587. **We plan to hold a formal consultation meeting with tribal representatives in early September. We encourage your comments on this document before the end of the public comment period which is from June 25, 1999 to September 23, 1999.**



PATRICIA J. BENEKE
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
U.S. Department of the Interior



MARY NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources
State of California



LESTER A. SNOW
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Enclosure